

**REMARKS**

With the new presentation of claim 4 in the present preliminary amendment, claims 1-4 are now pending in the application. No claims are otherwise amended or canceled.

Applicants submit that claim 4 is allowable over the applied prior art. Support for the described feature therein may be found in applicants' specification, for example, in the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11. The referenced text explains that, in order to minimize the influence of the total sum of the moments applied to the saddle surfaces 44, 44, if the existence of a predetermined angle in the V-faces 39, 39 of the metal element 32 is taken into consideration, it is desirable that the position e of each of the recesses 46, 46 is in the vicinity of such point of intersection, because the fulcrum of the total sum of the moments applied onto the line Oe is the point e. Note Fig. 5B.

Accordingly, the applied prior art cannot render claim 4 unpatentable.

In view of the remarks above, applicant now submits that the entire application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowability is hereby requested. If for any reason it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension, or any other fees which may be due, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,  
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph L. Felber', written in a cursive style.

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